

Tackling the Problem of Sub-Standard Therapeutic Drugs in Kenya

As part of research being conducted by Marya Leiberman at Notre Dame University in Indiana, a new device has been developed to enable pharmacists to assay products labelled as therapeutic drugs but which may contain substandard medicines. The **Paper Analytic Device (PAD)** provides a miniature chemical laboratory on paper. This laboratory comprises 12 chemical strips that can provide an indication of the chemical content of the purported therapeutic drug. In its present form PAD provides an assay for 36 different therapeutic drugs. The device, which has been designed so that anyone can be trained to use it, is presently **in trials in Kenya** where it is estimated that up to 25% of therapeutic drugs could be substandard or contain falsified medicine.

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